

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, said cartridge comprising:

a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising ~~[[a]]~~ first and second guide portions integrally formed and configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide portion being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide portion being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction,

wherein at least one of said first or second guide portions is configured to couple directly to an adjoining guide portion of an adjoining process cartridge.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first or second guide portion faces an inner wall of the image forming apparatus or another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to guide another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to slidably engage with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a shape of said guide first and second portions depends on a location of said first and second guide portions in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein a configuration of said first and second guide portions is one of being separately formed from said housing or being integrated with said housing.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image transfer mechanism; and
[[a]] at least one process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted, the process cartridge comprising:
a photoconductive element; and
a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising
[[a]] first and second guide ~~portion~~ portions integrally formed and configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide portion being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide portion being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction,
wherein at least one of said first or second guide portions is configured to couple directly to an adjoining guide portion of an adjoining process cartridge.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image transfer mechanism; and

a plurality of process cartridges detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, each process cartridge of the plurality of process cartridges being arranged parallel to the others and forming an image of a single color, each of the process cartridges having first and second sides and a bottom portion and comprising:

a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising ~~[[a]] first and second guide portion~~ portions integrally formed and configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide portion being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide portion being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction,

wherein at least one of said first or second guide portions is configured to couple directly to an adjoining guide portion of an adjoining process cartridge.

Claim 9-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of providing a process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted in an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

providing a photoconductive element; and

a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising ~~[[a]] first and second guide portion~~ portions integrally formed and configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide portion being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide portion being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction,

wherein at least one of said first or second guide portions is configured to couple directly to an adjoining guide portion of an adjoining process cartridge.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said storing further comprises arranging said first or second guide portion to face an inner wall of the image forming apparatus or another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to guide another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein said first or second guide portion is configured to slidably engage with a portion of another process cartridge adjoining said process cartridge.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein a shape of said first or second guide portion depends on a location of said first or second guide portion in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein a configuration of said first or guide portion is one of being separately formed from said housing or being integrated with said housing.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method of making an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

providing an image transfer mechanism; and

providing a process cartridge having first and second sides and a bottom portion and being configured to be detachably mounted in said image forming apparatus, the process cartridge comprising:

- a photoconductive element; and
- a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising [[a]] first and second guide ~~portion~~ portions integrally formed and configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide portion being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a first location and the second guide portion being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction,

wherein at least one of said first or second guide portions is configured to couple directly to an adjoining guide portion of an adjoining process cartridge.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of making an image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

- providing an image transfer mechanism; and
- providing a plurality of process cartridges, each process cartridge of said plurality being detachably mounted to said image forming apparatus, being arranged in parallel to the other cartridges, and being configured to form an image of a single color, each one of the process cartridges having first and second sides and a bottom portion and comprising:

- a photoconductive element; and
- a housing configured to house said photoconductive element, said housing comprising [[a]] first and second guide ~~portion~~ portions integrally formed and configured to guide the process cartridge in and out of the image forming apparatus, the first guide portion being disposed on the first side of the process cartridge on a

first location and the second guide portion being disposed on the second side of the process cartridge on a second location lower than the first location with respect to a vertical direction,

wherein at least one of said first or second guide portions is configured to couple directly to an adjoining guide portion of an adjoining process cartridge.

Claim 25 (New): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the adjacent process cartridges are positioned within the image forming apparatus on a slope with respect to the horizontal direction.

Claim 26 (New): The image forming apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the adjacent process cartridges are positioned within the image forming apparatus on a slope with respect to the horizontal direction.